

9. (New) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropia;

b) contacting said tissue with detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands for a time sufficient for said detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands to bind to ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;

c) removing unbound detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands from said sample; and

d) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands bound to ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia;

wherein the presence of ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual.

10. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein expression of said ST receptor protein by said cells is detected using anti-ST receptor antibodies.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein said antibodies are monoclonal antibodies.

12. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein said antibodies are labeled.

13. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein expression of said ST receptor protein by said cells is detected using ST receptor ligands.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said ligands are labeled.
15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said ligands are peptides.
16. (New) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropia with detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands for a time sufficient for said detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands to bind to ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;
  - b) removing unbound detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands from said sample; and
  - c) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable anti-ST receptor antibodies or detectable ST receptor ligands bound to ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia;
- wherein the presence of ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein expression of said ST receptor protein by said cells is detected using anti-ST receptor antibodies.
18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said antibodies are monoclonal antibodies.
19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said antibodies are labeled.

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20. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein expression of said ST receptor protein by said cells is detected using ST receptor ligands.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said ligands are labeled.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said ligands are peptides.

23. (New) An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropia;

b) contacting said tissue with detectable oligonucleotide probes that hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein for a time sufficient for said detectable oligonucleotide probes to hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;

c) removing detectable oligonucleotide probes which are not hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells of said sample; and

d) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable oligonucleotide probes hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia;

wherein the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said detectable oligonucleotide probe is labeled with a fluorescent marker.

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25. (New). An in situ method of detecting invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample of intestinal tissue which includes the basement membrane of the laminapropia with detectable oligonucleotide probes that hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein for a time sufficient for said detectable oligonucleotide probes to hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells of said sample;

b) removing detectable oligonucleotide probes which are not hybridized to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells of said sample; and

c) examining said sample to detect the presence of detectable oligonucleotide probes hybridize to mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein present in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia;

wherein the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in cells in the basement membrane of the laminapropia indicates invasion of neoplastic colorectal cells into the basement membrane of the laminapropia of an individual.

26 (New). The method of claim 25 wherein said detectable oligonucleotide probe is labeled with a fluorescent marker.